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Application No. <u>10049395</u>	Prepared by <u>ELWC</u>	Tracking Number <u>05962354</u>	
Examiner-GAU <u>Wu</u>	Date <u>9-13-04</u>	Week Date <u>6-07-04</u>	
<u>1713</u>	No. of queries <u>-2-</u>	<u>IFW</u>	

2nd Request

JACKET			
a. Serial No.	f. Foreign Priority	k. Print Claim(s)	p. PTO-1449
b. Applicant(s)	g. Disclaimer	l. Print Fig.	q. PTOL-85b
c. Continuing Data	h. Microfiche Appendix	m. Searched Column	r. Abstract
d. PCT	i. Title	n. PTO-270/328	s. Sheets/Figs
e. Domestic Priority	j. Claims Allowed	o. PTO-892	t. Other

SPECIFICATION	MESSAGE
a. Page Missing	1) A 35 U.S.C. 119(e)(1) foreign priority claim cannot be based on a U.S. application. Please make all necessary corrections to file wrapper and specification see MPEP 1893.03(c)
b. Text Continuity	"Priority Claim Under 35 U.S.C. 120
c. Holes through Data	2) On PTO 1449 of 3-21-02 please provide complete date for Japanese Pat. 3-64384 MO/YR are necessary for publication. If unavailable please line through citation, see attached
d. Other Missing Text	Thank you
e. Illegible Text	ELWC
f. Duplicate Text	
g. Brief Description	
h. Sequence Listing	
i. Appendix	
j. Amendments	
k. Other	
	initials
<b>CLAIMS</b>	<b>RESPONSE</b>
a. Claim(s) Missing	
b. Improper Dependency	
c. Duplicate Numbers	
d. Incorrect Numbering	
e. Index Disagrees	
f. Punctuation	
g. Amendments	
h. Bracketing	
i. Missing Text	
j. Duplicate Text	
k. Other	
	initials

 <p><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b></p> <p>(Use Several Sheets if necessary)</p>	ATTY DOCKET NO. 44598 A	SERIAL NO. 10/049395
	APPLICANT James W. McMichael et al.	
	FILING DATE February 12, 2002	GROUP 1713

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

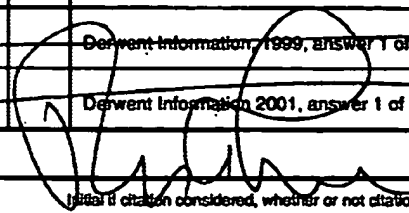
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
M	US	3,719,643	1/1971	Knight	260	87.3	
M	US	4,287,262	9/1981	Englehard et al.	428	461	
M	US	4,939,181	7/1990	Haseliter	521	81	
A	US	5,663,236	9/1997	Takahashi et al.	525	240	
M	US	6,184,297	2/2001	Takahashi et al.	525	240	

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
M	JP	3-64384	1997	Japan				
M	JP	5-214179	1993	Japan				
M	JP	6-201050	1994	Japan				
M	EP	342,750	11/1989	EPO				
M	EP	588,626	5/1994	EPO				

## OTHER DISCLOSURES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Place of Publication, Etc.)

	Derwent Information 1976, answer 5 of 6
	Derwent Information, 1980, answer 30 of 32
	Derwent Information, 1989, answer 14 of 32
	Derwent Information 1992, answer 3 of 6
	Derwent Information, 1999, answer 1 of 6
	Derwent Information 2001, answer 1 of 3

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: 	June 11, 2003

Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

## FREE-FLOWING POLYMER COMPOSITION

Thrs appl is a 371 of PCT/US00/22424 08/16/00  
which is a con of 09/375856 8/17/99 ABN

The present invention pertains to a free-flowing polymer composition and process

therefor. More particularly, the present invention pertains to a free-flowing polymer composition comprising polymer and an anti-blocking agent and processes for producing such a composition:

Many polymers are often prepared by a polymerization of a mixture of monomers in, for example, a solution or slurry process. The polymerization product may then be recovered in a form suitable for subsequent handling and part manufacturing. This recovery operation produces materials in the form of particles, flakes or powders. Unfortunately, many such materials have a tendency to stick together, that is, block, agglomerate or cake, and/or adhere to processing equipment. Factors such as temperature, storage time, and/or compression often facilitate, contribute to, or exacerbate the aforementioned stickiness. Thus, the polymer materials are often not substantially free-flowing.

If the polymer particles are not free-flowing, then they present a few problems. One problem is that the particles may be difficult to package, ship, and incorporate into subsequent articles because the reduced flowability hinders the uniform distribution of said particles. Another problem stems from the tendency of the particles to stick to the manufacturing and processing equipment, for example, screens, dryers, meters, extruding equipment and other fabricating machinery. Thus, production is often hindered because the equipment must be cleaned periodically to remove the agglomerated particles.

One way in which the caking tendencies of polymers have been reduced is by blending finely divided silica or fumed silica with the polymer particles. Unfortunately, even though the caking tendency of the polymer particles may be reduced, the silica is a low bulk density solid and tends to make the working environment unpleasant due to silica dust.

In order to reduce dust associated with finely divided or fumed silica, U.S. Patent No. 5,366,645 suggests that a porous, amorphous silica be imbibed with a liquid oil and employed with polymers. Unfortunately, the porous, amorphous silicas required for such a composition are relatively expensive and difficult with which to work.

For the aforementioned reasons, it would be desirable to discover a new polymer particle composition which is substantially free flowing and relatively dust-free. It would further be desirable if such a composition employs readily available components that are not



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Bib Data Sheet

CONFIRMATION NO. 3836

<b>SERIAL NUMBER</b> 10/049,395	<b>FILING OR 371(c) DATE</b> 02/12/2002 <b>RULE</b>	<b>CLASS</b> 524	<b>GROUP ART UNIT</b> 1713	<b>ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.</b> 44598A
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## APPLICANTS

James W. McMichael, Lake Jackson, TX;  
Friedheim Bunge, Achern, GERMANY;  
Jeffrey R. Montanye, Singapore, SINGAPORE;  
Skrikant V. Dhodapkar, Lake Jackson, TX;

## \*\* CONTINUING DATA \*\*\*\*\*

This application is a 371 of PCT/US00/22424 08/16/2000  
which is a CON of 09/375,856 08/17/1999 ABN

## \*\* FOREIGN APPLICATIONS \*\*\*\*\*

Foreign Priority claimed <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	<b>STATE OR COUNTRY</b> TX	<b>SHEETS DRAWING</b> 4	<b>TOTAL CLAIMS</b> 83	<b>INDEPENDENT CLAIMS</b> 6
35 USC 119 (a-d) conditions met <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> Met after Allowance				
Verified and Acknowledged	Examiner's Signature	Initials		

## ADDRESS

22515

## TITLE

FREE-FLOWING POLYMER COMPOSITION

<b>FILING FEE RECEIVED</b> 2276	FEES: Authority has been given in Paper No. _____ to charge/credit DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. _____ for following:	<input type="checkbox"/> All Fees <input type="checkbox"/> 1.16 Fees ( Filing ) <input type="checkbox"/> 1.17 Fees ( Processing Ext. of time ) <input type="checkbox"/> 1.18 Fees ( Issue ) <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Credit
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